

LA BAGARRE

92

STEVEN LAURENCE KAPLAN

LA BAGARRE

GALIANI'S "LOST" PARODY

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Plate 1. The abbé Ferdinando Galiani. B.N.

LA BAGARRE

GALIANI'S "LOST" PARODY

edited, with an introduction,

by

STEVEN LAURENCE KAPLAN



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For LAURENCE and RENÉE
my lovable *bagarreurs*

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PREFACE

It is my hope that this publication of a “lost” work by Galiani will interest scholars of many nations and disciplines. Few writers could make a more compelling claim upon such a cosmopolitan audience. An Italian with deep roots in his homeland, Galiani achieved celebrity in the salons of Paris. An ecclesiastic, his most notable concerns were worldly, to say the least. An erudite classicist, Galiani was passionately concerned about economics and technology. A philosophe and ostensibly something of a subversive, he was enthralled by power and he served for many years as a government agent and adviser at home and abroad. Galiani embodied many of the preoccupations and paradoxes of the Enlightenment. Historians and literary analysts devoted to the study of the *lumières* throughout Europe are bound to find Galiani’s work important.

In recent years there has been an efflorescence of interest in the history of political economy and its relationship not only to the history of ideas but also to the history of social structure, economic development, administrative institutions, collective mentalities, and political mobilization. Galiani’s work helps to crystalize many of these connections which scholarly specialization has tended to obscure. Galiani had a leading voice in one of the most significant debates in the eighteenth century on the implications of radical economic, social, and institutional change. His *oeuvre*, including the work published here for the first time, ought to serve as a bond linking scholars from all fields who are seeking to fathom the passage from (so-called) traditional to (so-called) modern society.

One does not incite a *Bagarre* without contracting a number of *dettes fondamentales* which I am pleased to acknowledge here. I am obliged to two old friends from the Bibliothèque Nationale, François Avril and Michel Melot, for helping me to assemble materials for this book. I am grateful to Mary Ann Quinn whose selfless toil and scholarly rigor contributed enormously to this project. My colleague Alain Sez nec proffered several useful suggestions for which I thank him. I appreciate the skillful work of my typist, Pat Guilford, and my student aides, Bennie

PREFACE

DiNardo, Jack Falvey and Barbara Guttoff. As always I owe much to my wife for her learning and her good sense.